

4 new gizmos add nice touches

Here are four new products that won't exactly start an office revolution but may just make things run more smoothly.

■ **The Answering Machine Message Stopper.** If you use an answering machine, you know the frustration of getting to the phone when the machine has already answered for you. Some of the newer, more expensive machines interrupt the message and reset automatically when you pick up the phone, but a lot of the older models don't.

The Message Stopper, from DesignTech International Inc., 941-8 25th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20037, (202) 333-0078, upgrades your machine to accommodate interruptions. It simply disconnects and re-sets the machine the moment you pick up the phone, so you don't have to talk through your message or press any buttons to cut your machine short.

The Message Stopper, with a suggested retail price of \$14.95, is a



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This kit is a great alternative to plastering computer disks with stick-on labels. No Label gives you tough little plastic pockets that self-stick to your disks, color-coded file cards that fit in the pockets, and durable plastic sleeves to cover the whole works. The kit is manufactured by Weber and Sons Inc., P.O. Box 104, Adelphia, N.J. 07710, (800) 225-0044. The introductory version with 100 pockets and 200 labels costs \$22.45.

■ **Addresselope.** If you're using a

plastic gadget a little larger than a phone wire coupler. It has the added attraction of assuring privacy by blocking extension phones from listening in or interrupting that line.

■ **No Label.**

word processing program and a laser printer, and you can't grab the address off a letter, send it to the printer and directly print out an envelope, you probably could use Addresselope.

Addresselope takes the address from any letter and sends it to your laser printer along with all the instructions needed for printing an envelope. All you need do is feed the envelope into the printer. This needn't be a one-at-a-time operation. The program allows you to save up to 10 addresses and do them all at once.

This impressive program is available from Barry Watzman Microcomputer Systems, 1206 Canterbury Lane, Mansfield, Ohio 44906-3509, (419) 756-5295, for \$46.95. It's expensive, but worthwhile if used by many people in your office.

■ **Forget-Me-Notes.** This program gets your computer to remind you of appointments, tasks and other items when you turn on

the computer. You enter the date of the task, and months later, by using the computer's clock, Forget-Me-Notes won't let you forget. Up pops a reminder.

This is a good basic program for those who don't use — and don't want — all the details of a memory-resident program with calendars, to-do lists and alarms.

Forget-Me-Notes is available from Dataline Systems Inc., 29 Crafts St., Newtonville, Mass., 02160, (617) 244-3282 for \$39.95.

■ **The bottom line:** None of these products is earth-shattering. But, if any one of them will erase a little annoyance from your day-to-day routine, it's probably worth getting.

Hillel Segal's column includes evaluations of gadgets, seminars and books designed to enhance business productivity. Segal is a management consultant based in Boulder.